

The Drive Methodist Church
Eastern Avenue, Ilford, Essex, IG1 3PP

NEWSLETTER

July/August 2025



Minister: Revd Jacqueline Jones

Email: rev.jacquelinejones@outlook.com

<https://www.drive-methodist.church>

**Church Mission Statement
of
The Drive Methodist Church**

The Drive Methodist Church aims to be faithful to the commandments of Jesus, and the calling of the Methodist Church.

The calling of the Methodist Church is to respond to the gospel of God's love in Christ and to live out its discipleship in worship and mission, and to fulfil the promises detailed in the Methodist worship book.

Provide a weekly opportunity for all people to worship God in Christ, here at The Drive Methodist Church.

Enable people to grow and learn as Christians through mutual support and care.

Be a good neighbour to the immediate and wider community. Sharing our faith with others through pastoral care, church activities and communication.

MINISTER'S LETTER

THE KINDNESS THAT HEALS

Dear friends

Some weeks in ministry stretch you thin, with a voice cracking, body aching, and spirit dragging. This was one of them. Laryngitis had stolen my voice, and the cough clung like a stubborn guest. But what I remember most about that week is not the discomfort. It is the kindness.

My colleagues in the Circuit rose to the occasion with grace. They chaired the Circuit Meeting, led prayers, and ensured everything ran smoothly so I could rest. Congregants sent messages of encouragement, shared home remedies, and one even brought me a jar of honey, a small, golden offering that soothed more than just my throat. That act, and the many others, reminded me that ministry is not carried alone. It is held by a community of love.

This is the body of Christ in motion:
the one who chairs when your voice is gone,
the one who brings the honey,
the ones who whisper, "Rest. We've got this."

Bible Month: A Time of Rich Encounter

We give thanks to God for the deep engagement across our churches during June's Bible Month, as we journeyed through the Gospel of John. Through worship, preaching, and study, we explored themes of divine presence, radical love, and the hour of transformation. Participation was high, the questions were thoughtful, and many shared how spiritually enriched they felt. A heartfelt thanks to all who led, attended, and prayed us through this meaningful month.

Families and Youth Day – 12 July

Looking ahead, we are excited for our Annual Families and Youth Day on Saturday , 12th July. This is a free event for children and young people across our Circuit and beyond. Expect fun, laughter, food, games, and time to reconnect. Please see flyers in your churches for more details and don't forget to invite others.

Methodist Conference 2025

By the time you read this, the Methodist Conference will be drawing to a close. We give thanks for the induction of the new President and Vice President, and for all new presbyters and deacons ordained and received into Full Connexion. We hold them in prayer as they step into new seasons of leadership. May we all continue in our shared calling, as a church seeking justice, proclaiming good news, and living out the love of Christ in every place.

A Blessing for Summer

As summer arrives, bringing sunshine, school holidays, and the hope of rest, we wish all who are travelling a safe journey and joyful return. Whether you are venturing far or finding stillness close to home, may this season be one of renewal.

With deep gratitude for the kindness we share and the Gospel we live.

Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni
Superintendent Minister
Barking, Dagenham & Ilford Methodist Circuit

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Welcome to our July/August Newsletter and many thanks to all of you who have made contributions to this double issue. The schools will soon be breaking up which is a sure sign summer is definitely here. Someone recently said to me “we are on the countdown to Christmas now”. Well, we have a couple of months of summer left and three months of autumn so no need to start the Christmas shopping just yet!

We were very sad to hear that Peter Bendon passed away on the 3rd June. Some tributes, starting on page 7, give testament to how well-loved Peter was by our church family.

There are a few events to look out for in July – our Church Anniversary Service and get-together on the 6th, Evening Prayer Service on the 8th. There are also Circuit events – South African BBQ Night on the 4th, Youth Day on the 12th, an Accreditation Service on the 13th, a Summer Sale on the 19th – details for all of these events are on pages 14-16. It's a busy month!

I've included a 'Summer Puzzles Pullout' to occupy you, (young or old), over the next couple of months. Hope you enjoy doing them!

I shall be on holiday at the end of August so our next Newsletter will be back the first week of September. It would be great to hear how you spent the summer. Home or away!

Whatever you're doing keep safe, keep cool and have a lovely time!

Diane Foster





WE ASK FOR GOD'S BLESSING on all those who are unwell and that we have concerns for at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are unable to come to church because of ongoing illnesses.

We particularly remember in our prayers **Brian Grinham** whose has broken a femur and is in hospital recovering from an operation, our two Janets – **Janet Brunnen** and **Janet Wragg** – who have recently been dealing with health issues, **Ann Barnes**, Jo's mother-in-law, who has had a very bad fall and is in hospital and Sandra Folkes' sister, **Pauline** who has recently had a kidney transplant and is recovering in hospital. May they all feel the love of God's healing hands on them.

We pray for all those grieving at this time:

Lorraine Bendon and family

We were all so sorry to hear that Peter passed away on 3rd June. Our prayers and thoughts are with Lorraine, Peter's sister, Sylvia and all the family at this sad time.

Oli Fadojutimi and family. We continue to remember Oli and family following their recent bereavements.

Our Chair of District, **Revd Dr Jonathan Dean** whose mother recently passed away.

May God's love give all of them strength and ease their pain.

Please remember too in your prayers **all our young people** awaiting exam results. May God's loving care give them peace in their hearts, minds, bodies and souls.

"Do not be afraid—I am with you! I am your God—let nothing terrify you! I will make you strong and help you; I will protect you and save you". Isaiah 41:10

TRIBUTES TO PETER BENDON

OUR FRIEND PETER

When you think about some of the most iconic double acts such as Batman and Robin, Lois Lane and Superman, Morecombe and Wise, and French and Saunders, you instantly know that Peter and Lorraine slot in nicely alongside the great partnerships! They were definitely each other's sidekicks and what a great team they made together, over many happily married years.

I can't remember a time when Peter wasn't quietly beaver- ing away with various tasks, supporting people and offering valuable advice and help. He was always willing to make props for the Nativity, set the laptop and television up, serve the lunch and teas at various events, cook for the BBQ, wash up and tidy away, and keep the church safe. He took items to the foodbank, managed the defibrillator at our church for the local community, was involved with the newsletter production, and many, many other jobs that he quietly got on with.

Peter and Lorraine have always been so supportive of me and my family. They hosted a baby shower for Lorna, and Peter took David and Timothy to the Olympics in 2012. He also helped David to train his dog, and he dismantled an electronic bed from my parents' house (which proved quite difficult!). Nothing was too much for Peter. He was always so kind and willing to help.

Peter also had a great sense of humour, and he could always make you laugh, something that I'm sure helped him and his lovely family through difficult times.

Peter dedicated his time and his talents wholeheartedly to our church. He has been a true blessing, who we shall miss dearly, and we thank God from the bottom of our hearts for our dear friend Peter.

Jo Wright



I was so very sorry to hear that Peter passed away at the beginning of June. We knew Peter had not been well for some time but it came as a great shock to all of us when we heard he had died.

I have known Peter since I became a member of the Foster family over 40 years ago. We have a photo taken at our wedding of Peter and some other young men decorating our car with tin cans, L plates, crazy foam etc. before we left the reception. I remember as we travelled the next day on our honeymoon pulling down the visor and getting covered in confetti! I also remember Peter when he was a Cub leader and I used to attend the Cub camps to help Jeremy and the service crew. I used to be a Beaver Scout leader and it was Peter who started this movement at our church.

Peter was a very kind man. Jeremy and I visited my sister Susan recently who was sorry to hear the sad news. Susan is fond of dogs and particularly remembers Peter when he took the time to bring along Flo (the dog) to the Easter Egg Hunt last year especially so Susan could meet her.

Peter had always been so supportive of our church willing to help in numerous ways.

We shall all miss a dear friend.

Diane Foster

I've known Peter since Ray and I joined the Drive Church over forty years ago. In all that time one could depend upon him to undertake any tasks around the church. He was a modest man and I doubt he would ever have added up just how many things he did to ensure our church life 'ticked' over. Be it for the Scout Group, quiz evenings, lock up duties, property committee, defibrillator training, Peter continuously gave his time and energy to others. He was a devoted family man and he and Lorraine were a team, always working tirelessly to help others.

We are thankful for all that Peter did for our church and for the times when he gave advice or help when needed. May Lorraine find comfort in knowing how much Peter was loved and respected by all those who knew him.

Anne Dellow

The 3rd June was a really sad day when Peter passed away after his long battle with ill-health.

When I think of Peter, I think of a gentle giant of a man who had many health issues which he put up a magnificent fight to overcome but never complained about them, at least not in my hearing. He was quietly efficient and would help anyone.

He was one of life's true gentlemen and I feel privileged to have spent time in his company.

Ruth Joyce

Peter was a lovely person and a very helpful and handy man. He would help with church events and tech, equipment, first aid training and I believe he helped us set up the

defibrillator outside the hall which is available in an emergency for the whole community.

Peter had a great sense of humour, was always warm, and I loved chatting or sharing a joke with him. He also always smelt really lovely!

Despite the health complaints he faced in the past few years, Peter continued helping out around church. Someone at church said that at the Saturday lunch, he would always bring her food to the table, which she appreciated and will miss. We will all miss you, Peter; may you Rest in Peace,

Michelle Garner



I feel I've known Peter all my life. He was kind and caring, always up to tinkering and solving problems and he was fun to be around, cracking jokes and creating laughter wherever he went.

For me he was always the gadget guy who I could always go to for issues with tech, he'd set up the screen and projector for the nativity with ease, he was our bbq king- always cheffing it up at the Rodings but he was also the man who always had a doggo that he trained spectacularly and allowed me to come round and play with!

I'll miss Peter's fun loving nature, hearing about the new tricks he taught Flo and as the church anniversary approaches, I'll think fondly of our bbq-ing master and how he'll probably be frowning at us from above when we burn the burgers he used to cook to perfection!!

Thea Garner

PETER BENDON AND THE SCOUT GROUP



Peter's first involvement with the Scout Group at The Drive was early in 1979 when Justin, Peter and Lorraine's eldest son, joined Cubs. Peter let slip that he was a partner in a company which owned a large van which he would be happy to use to transport equipment to our camps. Before offering, with hindsight, perhaps he would have been wise to have first asked where we were going as that year we were bound for the Brecon Beacons in South Wales, which would involve two return journeys of some 400 miles. Nevertheless, Peter stood by his generous offer and spent his first weekend with us. I think he was hooked!

At the time, we had two Cub packs – the Eastern Avenue Pack and the Cranbrook Park Pack, which met at Highlands School. Lorraine was already a leader with the Eastern Avenue Pack and Peter quickly volunteered to become a leader, working with the Cranbrook Park Pack. He also continued to support the Scout Troop, not only by helping with the transport, but often by camping with us as a leader. A keen wind surfer, he introduced some of the older Scouts to the challenges of staying upright on a surfboard on Llangorse Lake!

In 1982, the Scout Association introduced the Beaver Section, for 6-8 year olds. Peter was quick to recognise the benefits of forming our own Beaver Colony and volunteered to lead it – the first Colony to be formed in Redbridge. The section quickly became a valuable and important part of the Scout Group.

A change of occupation in the mid-80's meant that Peter was unable to commit the necessary time to run the Beavers and for a few years, he took a back seat, although he was always ready to help out on an ad-hoc basis.

In 2003, Peter assumed the role of Group Chairman, a role he held for five years.

Even in 'retirement', Peter was always there to help out whenever the opportunity arose, helping with events, providing first aid training and occasionally towing the Group's trailer once we no longer had our minibus. We benefitted from and remained grateful for his support right up to the closure of the Group three years ago.

Mike Seviour, Group Scout Leader (Retired)



I am not sure how many years have passed since I first met Peter, but it must be over 40 as Peter & Lorraine were guests at our wedding. But I do remember the first time I met him. We were in the Scout HQ getting ready for camp and he came in to see what was going on and to introduce himself. All good Scout camps need a plentiful supply of sausages and burgers. At the time, Peter ran a wholesale meat business. When he heard what we needed he immediately offered to supply us at cost price. He also offered to make his van available to move equipment.

Peter and I shared many good times together at various Scout camps, but more recently I have valued Peter's support in looking after our Church property. He administered the photo copier, he helped with IT issues, he repaired numerous broken items around the church and he was always willing to come over to the church to let contractors in. He was a valued member of the Property & Finance Committee and served on the Security rota for many years.

I am thankful for having known Peter and will miss his friendship and his willingness to support in any way he could.

Jeremy Foster

HAPPY  **JULY BIRTHDAY to:**

Michelle Garner on the 3rd
Lindsey Higgins on the 4th
Jeremy and Nick Foster on the 6th
Tim Wright on the 29th



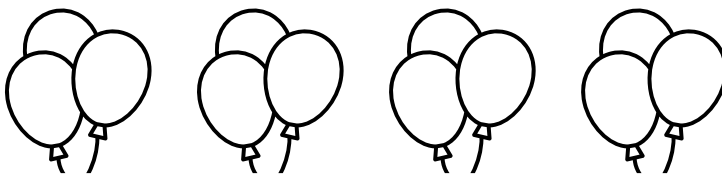
HAPPY  **AUGUST BIRTHDAY to:**

Bambo Banjo on the 19th
Renyl Selwyn on the 24th
Oli Fadojutimi on the 25th
Doreen Larney on the 26th



and to everyone celebrating a birthday over the next couple of months.

Have a lovely day!



(If you would like yours or somebody else's birthday mentioned then please let me know! – Ed.)



CHURCH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE 6TH JULY 11.15AM

Our Church Anniversary service will be led by the Superintendent of the circuit and our former minister, the Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni.

The service will be followed by our annual get-together at The Rodings, Roding Lane South from 1.30pm onwards. Everyone is welcome to join in our bring and share lunch. The Rodings is an outdoor space, but it does have a hall too. For more information and directions please speak to Jo, Michelle, or any of the stewards.

CHOIR EVENING PRAYER SERVICE 8TH JULY 8PM

To round off our Tuesday evening practices before the summer break you are warmly invited to join us for our service of prayers and hymns put together by Andrew and led by the Choir. Refreshments provided. Everyone is welcome.

CIRCUIT YOUTH DAY 12TH JULY 11AM-4PM **FULL DETAILS ON NEXT PAGE**

This will be where TDY and their families can have fun and fellowship with others in our circuit. Permission slips will have already been handed in but if you have any other questions please speak to Jo or Michelle.



FROM THE CIRCUIT OFFICE:



SOUTH AFRICAN BBQ NIGHT FRIDAY 4TH JULY AT THE MANSE, BARKING, IG11 9YB 6.30PM – LATE COST: £40 PER PERSON RSVP BY 1ST JULY

Revd Mmasape is holding this event as part of the fundraising for next year's mission visit to Ghana. For full details see the poster in foyer.

(The QR code on the poster has been activated).

ACCREDITATION SERVICE SUNDAY 13TH JULY 6.30PM AT GANTSHILL METHODIST CHURCH

Matthew Thorne and Alfred Mensah will be recognised as fully accredited Local Preachers at this service. The preacher is Revd Dr Leslie Griffiths. Gantshill are requesting donations of cakes, biscuits or fruit for the service - they are providing the rest. If you would like to give something sweet then please let me know. This service of celebration does not happen very often, so please try to attend and give you support to Matthew and Alfred.

BEACONTREE HEATH METHODIST CHURCH SATURDAY 19TH JULY 10-30 -1.30 SUMMER BUMPER SALE Snacks, Sandwiches, Raffle, Jewellery, Books



Do not miss out, we hope to see you.

There will be a stall for Solving Kids Cancer

Jackie Saito, Circuit Administrator
bdcircuitoffice@btconnect.com
020 8517 6159

AN UNEXPECTED LINK WITH THE PAST

I received an email via the info@drive-methodist.church link in the website from a lady called Barbara Hogan who lives in Troy, Michigan. She was coming to London for a wedding in June, and from her research of her family tree, she wondered if she had located the right church that has a stained-glass window dedicated to a Myra Thomas who is her Great Grandmother. She hoped that she would be able to arrange to see the window during her visit as she had Monday and Tuesday free before she returned.

To cut a long story short, I had arranged with her that I would meet her at the Church on the Monday morning and would show her round the Church and talk to her about the great benefactor that the Thomas family were to the Church. I then had a message from her thanking me for what I done to make the arrangements, but, unbeknown to her, the family who had invited her to the wedding, had made “touristy” visits for her on the two days that she thought were free.

It is a shame, but I understand that she is arranging to return to the UK with her brother and sister at some time, so will be sure to arrange to visit The Drive with them. I told her that we are celebrating our 100th anniversary in 2028 so may be she will try and come then.

Brian Grinham

That's a shame Barbara couldn't make it Brian. We hope to meet her soon – Ed.



MULTI-FAITH WALK OF PEACE

This annual event took place on Sunday afternoon, 1st June. The walk began at the Holocaust Memorial Garden in Valentines Park – just opposite my home. Unfortunately I missed the welcome from the Mayor of Redbridge and the first few places visited. One of these, the Buddhist Vihara, I have visited on previous occasions.

My tour began at the Hindu Temple in Cleveland Road. We walked from there to the Ilford Islamic Centre in Albert Road. A member of the Baha'i faith gave a talk as well as a member of the Muslim faith. We then walked to the Vine Church where a choir sang for us. They sang beautifully and enthusiastically.

The final place of worship visited was the Karamsar Gurdwara in Ilford High Road. After a talk we were invited to attend and enjoy a vegetarian meal. Yes – there was rice pudding as usual. There was also tea to drink. The tea and milk came together out of the tea pot. I always like it made this way.

The Walk of Peace is always an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. This year we were also blessed with good weather.

Susan Ruckes



THIRTY YEARS ON THE ORGAN STOOL...

First let me say a huge “thank you” for all the kind things that were said to mark my thirty years as organist at The Drive, and for the generous gift of a pair of proper organ shoes! Most people will know that I’ve been playing the organ pedals in my socks for the last twelve years, after my old shoes finally gave up the ghost having been glued back together one too many times. I’ve been practising with the new shoes, and it will take a couple more sessions to get used to them – I plan to make a short video explaining this, so keep an eye on the WhatsApp group.

I was brought up at The Drive, and sang in the choir as a teenager. Someone commented that it was lovely to have a “choirboy” in the choir – not something I wanted to be called at the age of 15! At Bristol University in the early ‘80s I went to a few meetings of the student MethSoc at Victoria Methodist Church. They were a bit too earnest for me! So I found myself joining my friends in the Anglican University Church choir, and I had a couple of lessons on the organ from a friend - still my only formal organ training to date! I played my first hymn on the organ there, having practised it for weeks in advance! (It was King of glory, King of Peace.)

From 1986 to 1992 I was organist and choirmaster at Holy Trinity Church in Barkingside, and these periods of Anglican influence gave me a really good grounding in church liturgy and introduced me to a world of wonderful church music. Also, being in my 20s, I made some howling errors of judgement which I hope I learned from!

I had a break from regular organ duties for a few years, playing occasional services at The Drive and other churches, until Frank Sayers finally announced that he was retiring from his role as organist, and my arm was suitably twisted to take over. I said I'd do the job for five years and we'd review it at that point...

I well remember my first choir practice in charge – I looked around at the people sitting in front of me and realised that many, if not most, of them had known me since I was in nappies! How was I going to tell them what to do? Of course, they were all lovely and made it really easy. And most of the current regular choir members were there that day, so they've all served for many more than thirty years...

Since 1995 there have been many new musical initiatives. One of the first was the Quavers, a musical group for children which was run jointly by me and Phyllis Spencer. It started as an idea to get children involved in Christmas music, and ended up running for ten years. The Quavers sang and played around the Circuit, in Rugby and Canterbury and at Wesley's Chapel in London. Following this came the Chorale, an occasional singing group for people of all ages who were unable to commit to the regular choir practices. This has not been such a regular thing since the COVID pandemic, but we do still manage to augment the choir at Christmas and Easter.

The choir has continued to meet throughout the last thirty years, and although numbers have gradually fallen, we still have a choir that can sing in four parts, which is becoming something of a rarity. We meet to practise on around thirty Tuesdays each year. I'm grateful to all who make this regular commitment that adds so much to the worship at The Drive,

and we would obviously welcome anyone else who would like to join us. Anyone who sings in a choir knows that the whole is much greater than the sum of its parts, so there's no need for anyone to feel that it's beyond them.

Things do not stand still in church music as in all walks of life. We've introduced the time of worship songs at the start of services. With smaller numbers in the choir and smaller congregations following COVID, we've taken to sitting in the body of the church, only using the choir stalls on festival occasions. Now part of The Drive's Centenary Development Plan is to remove the choir stalls altogether, which will create a more flexible worship space for modern needs, and ironically will probably see the choir and other musicians back in that space more often!

I often joke that I'm not out to break Frank's record of 33 years as organist, but fear not (or maybe do!), I'm not going anywhere just yet. When I took over, I could call on several people within the church to step in and play the organ or piano if I couldn't be there. Sadly, this is no longer the case. Technology can help – we have backing tracks we can use, but there is no real substitute for live music. And whatever the style of music, to make it worthy of use in worship, it needs preparation and practice. While we celebrate the past, we need to look to the future and look for and encourage our future musicians.

Andrew Taylor



So pleased the shoes fit Andrew. We're looking forward to seeing you wearing them! – Ed.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT RUTTER!

Our son, Matthew, although still a member at The Drive, now attends St Mary's Church with his wife Emily where they live in Horsham. Both musical, they also sing in their church choir. This involves every Sunday service, Evensong twice a month, weddings and funerals. They also perform in church concerts at festival times. A lot of singing!



The choir includes many young people and Jeremy, our daughter, Louise and I recently attended their flower festival and 'Closing Concert' for the summer. On this occasion they were also joined by children from the local primary school choir.

The programme included four pieces by John Rutter, 3 of which are familiar to us - *All Things Bright and Beautiful*, *For the Beauty of the Earth* and one in particular - *Look at the World*, which was an old favourite and sung in the past by our own Choir and Quavers (our junior choir back in the 90s). It was as much as we could do for Louise (a former Quaver herself) and I not to join in!

Diane Foster

www.stmaryshorsham.org.uk

*Look at the world, everything all around us,
Look at the world and marvel every day.
Look at the world: so many joys and wonders,
So many miracles along our way.
Praise to thee, O Lord for all creation.
Give us thankful hearts that we may see
All the gifts we share, and every blessing,
All things come of thee.*

John Rutter

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Three books have recently come back into my possession and may be of interest to Newsletter readers.

Two of the books are about the history of the Metropolitan Police.



The other book is Gareth Malone's *Music for the People* which is as entertaining and informative as his television and radio series.

Please see me if you would like to borrow any of these books.

Susan Ruckes

Thank you Susan. It would be good to hear of other books enjoyed by our Newsletter readers and would recommend to others – Ed.



HILARY'S PRAYER COLUMN



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!



A PRAYER FOR OUR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

Anniversaries are strange things, Lord.

An odd mixture of joy and pain.

We are reminded of so many lovely occasions we have shared together but also reminded too of so many who shared them with us but are now lost to us in your greater light.

We remember the triumphs of the church in past years and often find ourselves fearful and uncertain of the future.

But we know that you were with us in the past, you are with us today and you will be with us in the future.

And that you just ask us to be faithful
and to follow you in trust.

Lord in our worship today may we give you grateful thanks for all the blessings of the past and look to you with eagerness for vision for our future here at The Drive.

Amen.

Hilary Stevens

THE DRIVE PRE-SCHOOL OFSTED INSPECTION

I received notification from Ofsted on Tuesday 17th June at 12.00 midday, to inform me that our Ofsted Inspection would take place the next day.

I had been expecting this as our last inspection took place on 1st July 2019, almost six years earlier, so it was not a surprise. I had no concerns about the inspection, after all this was my sixth one at the Drive Pre-school.

Our pre-school is run smoothly and efficiently every day, with my number one priority being the children's safety. After all, the parents trust us with their most precious thing in their world, their children. That is a huge responsibility, which I take extremely seriously ensuring that everyone is kept safe, whilst being in the building during the day.

We do this by carrying out risk assessments daily, ensuring fire exits are cleared, the front door is secure and that all adults are confident what to do in an emergency evacuation. I have been preparing for the inspection for a while, ensuring everything was in order, especially the practitioners' knowledge of their key children.

On the day of the Ofsted Inspection, the inspector was warmly welcomed at 08.50 am and the day went very smoothly. The whole team, although nervous, performed very well and showed the inspector how the children in our care have developed extremely well since starting at the pre-school.

The inspector spoke to three parents, who have all said positive and wonderful things about their own and their children's experiences at the pre-school.

She also spoke to all the practitioners to find out how well they knew their key children and ensuring their safeguarding knowledge was up to date.

The inspector highlighted how practitioners used soft voices and showed an attentive and caring approach towards the children. She said they knew their key children well. She commented how well we promote the children's understanding about the importance of good health through toothbrushing routine and the healthy food options they have at snack time. She commented how independent the children were at serving their own snack, sitting down and feeding themselves.

The inspector observed how the practitioners reinforced good listening skills during circle time and they were consistent with teaching children how to self-regulate their emotions through books and emotions board. She explained that the children's fine motor development was good because they were given ample opportunities to develop their coordination and strength. She witnessed the children play and take part in activities both indoors and outdoors, having access to fresh air.

She observed that the children's culture and diversity was well supported to help them develop positive identities and this was carried out through books and planned festivals. This helped children feel valued, develop positive self-esteem and confidence.

The inspector saw the children engaged in planting activities and the practitioners encouraging them to take care of the plants. The children's self-care and hygiene practices were supporting their independence skills.

She commented on how everyone was diligent about the children's wellbeing and safety, because during the daily routine a headcount of the children was undertaken regularly. The curriculum in relation to Personal, Social and Emotional Development was the Pre-school's biggest strength and practitioners reinforced positive behaviour, showing good interaction between practitioners and children. The inspector commented how the children's behaviour throughout the day was exemplary and that all of them are making good progress.

The inspector gave the feedback of the inspection at 1.30 in the afternoon and she explained that it will take eighteen working days for the draught inspection to be received, as the report will go through a quality assurance process first. The outcome of the inspection was positive and the result cannot be shared with parents until the final report.

I wanted to share this experience with you, as I feel very proud of our pre-school and how it is an inclusive, safe, exciting and stimulating environment, where the children are kept safe and are supported to make excellent progress, preparing them for their future success.

Finally, I would like to thank my dedicated staff team, who did exceptionally well during the Ofsted Inspection on Wednesday 18th June 2025.

Kay Whiddon
Pre-school Manager

Well done Kay to you and your team. We are very proud of the Pre-School, and its connection to our church – Ed.

HELPLINES

SAMARITANS

Available 24 hours a day to provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress, despair or suicidal thoughts. www.samaritans.org 116 123 (free to call from within the UK and Ireland), 24 hours Email: jo@samaritans.org

MIND

Mind offers advice, support and information to people experiencing a mental health difficulty and their family and friends. Mon to Fri 9am to 6pm (except bank holidays). www.mind.org.uk InfoLine: 0300 123 3393 to call, or text 86463 Email info@mind.org.uk

PAPYRUS UK

Papyrus is the national charity dedicated to the prevention of young suicide. They support young people under 35 who are experiencing thoughts of suicide, as well as people concerned about someone else. Their HopelineUK service is open 9am - midnight every day of the year (including weekends and bank holidays). www.papyrusuk.org Helpline: 0800 068 4141 Email: pat@papyrus-uk.org

YOUNGMINDS

www.youngminds.org.uk Parents helpline: 0808 802 5544 (Mon-Fri from 9.30am - 4pm, excluding bank holidays)

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY (CALM)

A helpline for people in the UK who are down or have hit a wall for any reason, who need to talk or find information and support. thecalmzone.net Helpline: 0800 58 58 58 thecalmzone.net/help/webchat/ 5pm—midnight, every day of the year.

BROOK YOUNG PEOPLES SERVICE

Information, support and signposting service for young people under 25 on sexual health. Local services available via text message offering free contraception, pregnancy testing, counselling. brook.org.uk 29

CHILDLINE

Emotional support for children and young people on issues relating to child abuse, bullying etc. 0800 1111

FORCED MARRIAGES

Enter Forced Marriages into search bar at top of site - Service provided by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office to protect young people from forced marriages abroad. Service offers help to young people in these circumstances to help get them back to the UK. 020 7008 0151 gov.uk/stop-forced-marriage

NSPCC CHILD PROTECTION

0808 800 5000 email: help@nspcc.org.uk www.nspcc.org.uk

For anyone concerned about a child at risk of abuse.

FREEPHONE 24 HR NATIONAL DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE

0808 2000 247 www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/

Run in partnership between Women's Aid and Refuge, this is a national service for women experiencing domestic violence, their family, friends, colleagues and others calling on their behalf.

NATIONAL LGBT DOMESTIC ABUSE HELPLINE

0800 999 5428 galop.org.uk/get-help/helplines/

Emotional, practical support for LGBT people experiencing domestic abuse.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS

Helpline providing support for families and friends of problem drinkers, whether the person is still drinking or not. 0800

0086 811 www.al-anonuk.org.uk

CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY

<https://capuk.org/> Free help getting out of debt, budgeting and making your money go further.

AGE UK ADVICE

0800 678 1602 www.ageuk.org.uk Information and advice for older people.

DIARY		
JULY		
Tues 1 st	7.45pm	Choir Practice Church Parlour
Fri 4 th	6.30pm	South African BBQ Night At The Manse, Barking See page 16
Sun 6th	11.15am	Church Anniversary Service with Holy Communion led by Revd Mmasape Thathane-Tyolweni followed by church get-together at The Rodings See page 14
Tues 8th	8.00pm	Evening Prayer Service led by Andrew and the Choir See page 14
Sat 12 th	10.00am -	Youth Event at Chigwell Row Campsite See page 14,15
Sun 13th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Mr Matthew Thorne
Sun 13th	6.30pm	Accreditation Service at Gantshill MC See page 16
Sat 19 th	10.30am-1.30pm	Summer Bumper Sale at Beacontree Hth MC see page16
Sun 20th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Revd Jacqui Jones
Sun 27th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Deacon Andy Packer
AUGUST		
Sun 3rd	11.15am	Morning Worship with Holy Communion led by Revd Jacqui Jones

DIARY Contd.		
AUGUST		
Sun 10th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Mr Alfred Mensah
Sun 17th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Revd Jacqui Jones
Sun 24th	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Lynn Packer
Sun 31st	11.15am	Morning Worship led by Mrs Sharon Grundy

A SUMMERTIME REFLECTION

May you walk with God this summer
in whatever you do, wherever you go.

Walking with God means walking with honesty
and courage and walking with love, respect,
and concern for the feelings of others.

May you talk to God this summer -
every day and in every situation.

Talking with God means praying words of praise
for the beauty of creation, saying prayers of thanks
for friends and good times,
asking God's help in all your decisions,
and expressing sorrow when you have failed.

May you walk and talk with God every day. Amen.

— Unknown

***Deadline for September Newsletter items:
Sunday 31st August 2025***

Services every Sunday at 11.15am

Communion services as announced

Senior Church Stewards: Michelle Garner, Diane Foster
stewards@drive-methodist.church

Property Steward and Bookings: Jeremy Foster
property@drive-methodist.church
bookings@drive-methodist.church

Church Council Secretary: Roxanne Lashley
secretary@drive-methodist.church

Music@The Drive: Andrew Taylor
music@drive-methodist.church

Pastoral Secretary: Lorraine Bendon
pastoral@drive-methodist.church

The Drive Youth: Jo Wright
junior-church@drive-methodist.church

Flower Rota Secretary: Anne Dellow
flowers@drive-methodist.church

Safeguarding@The Drive: Lorraine Bendon
safeguarding@drive-methodist.church

JMA Secretary: Diane Foster
jma@drive-methodist.church

Newsletter Editor: Diane Foster
newsletter@drive-methodist.church

Pre School: Kay Whiddon
Pre-school@drive-methodist.church
Term time only: Mon to Fri 9.15am-12pm; 1pm-3pm